

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 FCSC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /086 W
-----031677 190625Z /10

P 190557Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8047
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 08983

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN

USUN ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR ROSENBLATT

CINCPACREP PASS STATUS LNO

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, TQ, JA
SUBJECT: FIRST MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS DELEGATION VISIT
TO TOKYO

SUMMARY: MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS MISSION LEAVES TOKYO
DISAPPOINTED WITH OUTCOME OF MEETINGS WITH MOFA AND
EMBASSY BUT APPARENTLY CONVINCED THAT GOJ IS FIRM IN
HOLDING THAT CLAIMS AGAINST IT WERE FULLY SETTLED IN
1969 AGREEMENT AND U.S. IS NOT IN POSITION TO CHANGE
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GOJ VIEWS. SOME MEMBERS OF DELEGATION APPEAR TO HAVE
CONCLUDED THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO ASKING U.S. TO
ASSUME FULL BURDEN FOR CLAIMS, WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL
SEARCHING FOR NEW ANGLE THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO REOPEN
ISSUE WITH JAPANESE. EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT WAS USEFUL
IN CLEARING THE AIR, AND THAT JAPANESE, BY TEMPERING
CLEAR EXPOSITION OF VIEWS WITH INTEREST IN LENDING OTHER

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE, SUSTAINED FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS MISSION TO TOKYO, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, NORTHERN MARIANAS AND PALAU, CALLED ON DCM, AND MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAY 17 AND WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS MAY 15 AND MAY 18. COCKTAIL PARTIES HOSTED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU NAKAJIMA AND DEPUTY CHIEF POLITICAL SECTION HELPED PRESERVE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE IN FACE OF DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF GROUP'S REPRESENTATIONS.

2. IN MEETING WITH POLCOUNS AND EMBOFFS MAY 15, EMBASSY EXPLAINED TO DELEGATION THAT GOJ -- IN VIEW BASICALLY SUPPORTED BY USG -- HAD NO FURTHER LEGAL OBLIGATION ON WAR CLAIMS IN LIGHT OF 1969 U.S.-JAPAN AGREEMENT, AND SUGGESTED BEST PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO SPEAK OF OBJECTIVE NEEDS OF MICRONESIA, RATHER THAN LEGAL OBLIGATIONS. POLCOUNS ADVISED THAT IN LIGHT OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE, MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH MIGHT BE TO EXPLAIN TO JAPANESE MICRONESIAN PROBLEMS AND LET THEM DECIDE HOW BEST TO RESPOND. DELEGATION APPEARED DISAPPOINTED THAT PASSAGE OF U.S. PUBLIC LAW 95-134, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR BALANCE OF TITLE I CLAIMED UNDER 1969 AGREEMENT BUT MAKING RELEASE CONTINGENT UPON GOJ CONTRIBUTING ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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SHARE, HAD NOT BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN STATE DEPARTMENT VIEW ON GOJ WAR CLAIMS LIABILITY, AND ALSO THAT EMBASSY'S ROLE WOULD BE ONE OF FACILITATOR RATHER THAN ADVOCATE FOR MICRONESIAN POSITION IN TOKYO.

3. IN MAY 17 MEETING AT MOFA, AMERICAN BUREAU DEPDIRGEN KITAMURA SAID IT WAS GOJ POLICY TO MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH MICRONESIA. HE WELCOMED TREND OF CLOSER JAPAN-MICRONESIA RELATIONS, BUT STATED GOJ POSITION ON WAR CLAIMS WAS THAT ISSUE SETTLED FULLY AND FINALLY IN 1969. IN REPLY TO DELEGATION STATEMENT THAT MICRONESIANS WERE NOT FULLY CONSULTED IN 1969 AGREEMENT, KITAMURA SAID THAT INASMUCH AS USG WAS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, GOJ WAS NOT IN POSITION TO NEGOTIATE WITH MICRONESIANS. THEREFORE, WHETHER VIEWS OF MICRONESIAN SIDE WERE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED AT THAT TIME WAS PURELY INTERNAL U.S. PROBLEM, NOT JAPANESE PROBLEM. IN REGARD TO U.S. PUBLIC LAW 95-134, KITAMURA SAID JAPANESE WERE FRANKLY DISTURBED BY ITS PASSAGE, BUT THAT, AS DOMESTIC U.S. LAW, IT COULD NOT IN ANY WAY BIND GOJ. KITAMURA ADDED THAT JAPAN WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA. HE STRESSED

THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WAS COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM WAR-CLAIMS ISSUE, WHICH, HI REPEATED, IN GOJ'S OPINION WAS FULLY AND FINALLY SETTLED IN 1969.

4. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH POLCOUNS AND EMBOFFS MAY 18, DELEGATION EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN GOJ POSITION. THEY GROPED FOR SOME NEW ANGLE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL RECEIPT OF FULL TITLE I CLAIMS, WHETHER FROM USG OR FROM GOJ AS RESULT OF FURTHER APPEAL FOR EX GRATIA PAYMENT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. DELEGATION ASKED FOR, AND RECEIVED, CONFIRMATION THAT AT THIS STAGE, NEITHER MICRONESIANS NOR

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SS-15 ICA-11 FCSC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /086 W

-----031825 190624Z /11

P 190557Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8048

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE JAPANESE NEGOTIATE ON WAR CLAIMS. MICRONESIANS ALSO INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER STATE WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BREAK LEGAL QUANDARY RE JAPANESE POSITION, OR IF NOT, TRYING TO HAVE U.S. CONGRESS AMEND LAW TO PAY FULL AMOUNT OF TITLE I CLAIMS. POLCOUNS REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO RAISE FALSE HOPES. GIVEN JAPANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM, E.G., BINDING NATURE OF GOJ INTERPRETATION OF 1969 SETTLEMENT, IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY WAR CLAIMS WOULD BE SUPPORTED ON ANY GROUND, LEGAL OR HUMANITARIAN, AND U.S. WAS NOT IN POSITION TO EXERT LEVERAGE. HE SAID ANSWER TO LATTER PART OF QUESTION WOULD BEST BE TAKEN UP IN WASHINGTON. (AT ONE POINT DURING MEETING EMBOFF HANDED DELEGATION

COPIES OF MAY 17 STATEMENT BEFORE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL BY NMI SENATE PRESIDENT GUERRERO. NMI DELEGATION MEMBERS COMMENTED THEY HAD DRAFTED SPEECH, BUT NOW, AFTER HAVING MET WITH GOJ OFFICIALS, THEY HAD MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE POSITION.)

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5. MOOD OF DELEGATION SUMMED UP BY SPOKESMAN NAKAMURA, WHO SAID HE FELT WHOLE ISSUE VERY IRRITATING AND FRUSTRATING. HE SAID DELEGATION WOULD FIRST BE IN CONTACT WITH WASHINGTON TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON RESULTS OF VISIT TO JAPAN, AND WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY. AT SAME TIME, SEVERAL DELEGATION MEMBERS COMMENTED THAT THEY NOW FULLY UNDERSTOOD JAPANESE AND U.S. POSITIONS.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT WAS USEFUL IN CLEARING THE AIR, AND ALTHOUGH DELEGATION'S HOPES WERE NOT REALIZED, MICRONESIANS NOW HAVE CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF GOJ POSITION, AS WELL AS LIMITS OF P.L. 95-134 TO ELICIT CONCRETE SOLUTION TO TITLE I CLAIMS. TWO SOCIAL OCCASIONS FOR DELEGATION, AS WELL AS MOFA MEETING, OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT JAPANESE-MICRONESIAN CONTACT, IN WHICH GOJ POSITION ON CLAIMS TEMPERED BY CLEAR EXPOSITION OF GOJ INTEREST IN LENDING OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA.

7. FULL MEMORANDUM OF DELEGATION'S VISIT WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, VISITS, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2631603
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS DELEGATION VISIT TO TOKYO SUMMARY: MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS MISSION LEAVES TO
TAGS: PGOV, TQ, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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